other States; if not, 'the reasons ?

therefor? THE MINISTER OF

COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAI;

A.ARMA): (a) The Government has licenced Celular Mobile Telephone Service to the followins two compa-uies on a non-exclusive basis for Bihar Telecom. Circle;

(i) M/s. Koshika Telecom Ltd.

(ii) M/s. Reliance Telecom Pvt Lid.

(b) The proposjal for commercial launch of 'service of Mls. Koshika Telecom in Patna City of Biiiar has Lten received. *Mjs.* Reliance Tele, com are yet to start the service *hi* any city of Bihar. The reason given; by the company are iateralia general difficulties being faced by them ij. view of maximum number of circles characterized by imder developed infrastructure, etc.

(c) Nt> Sir. Separate licences have been given for each Telecom Circle and case of each circle has therelcse to be dealt separately.

Waiting list of telephone conaectios under Janpat/j Telephone *Exchange*

2347. SHRIMATI MALTI SHAR. MA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of waitin.? list of registraiits for-telephone con-rcctions under Janpath Telephone llxchange

(b) by when It would be cleared

(c) whether It is a fact that even after ins]urance of O.B. iele-

I-hone connecd»ns tmder the said exchange are not being installed;

(d) whether any tune fFiame has Leen Axed in this regard, if so, the retails thereof; and

(e) whether any inquiry has been ordered in this regard to And but the reasons for delay, if so, the c'etails thereof and the action taken F gains,! the responsible officials/ofifl-cers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNIATI - ONS (SHRI BENl PRASAD "^ ARMA): (a) As on 1.7.1997, there 1? no waiting list in all the categories under Janpath Telephone Exchange.

(b) Not applicable in view of above.

(c) The details of pending OB ere as follows: —

(i) 168 OBs are pending dtie *to* some areas beihg technically not feasible;

(ii) 104 OBs, which were earlier tecimically non feasible, have been made feasible, are in the process of installation.

(iii) 5 OBs are pending due to subscribers' reasons.

(d) All the pending OBs are like. ly to be cleared progressively b/ 31.12.1997.

(e) Not applicable in view of (c) nbove.

Waiting list of Telephone Connections in Rourkela

;-348. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 2569 given in Rajya Sabha on the 19th March, 1997 and state;

(a) whether the waliting Ksit ftw general category registrants for tele-T- fric connections in steel city Bour. kela of Orissa has since been clear ed

(h) 11 so, the details thereof;

(c) Jf not, the reasons therefor,

(d) by when the telephcue connection registered against demand note No. D'B-607 (Application No. A-2782) issued on 6tli August, 1996 is likely to be installed; and

(e) by when the waitjng list is likely to be cleared?

TflE MINISTER OF COMMUNI. IONS (SHRI BENl PRASAL VARMA): (a) to (c) Out of the total waiting list of 1955 t)f Genelal Categogry as on 28.2.97 in th-steel city of Rotirkeia, 1064 connections have since been provided. The remaininig waiting list of 891 coiild not be cleared since only 1000 Ire expansion could be completed Jv stead Lif 2000 lines proposed fo" RLU Exchange, Rourkela Township

(d) This telephone connection is likely to be inMalled by end of October 1997.

(e) The remaining waiting list is likeiy to be cleared progressive by June, 1998 subject to availability of equipment and sitores.

BASIC communication facilities in rural areas of Maharashtra

2340 PROF. RAM KAPSE: Wil the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(c) the tcrgtet fixed alongwith the time frame for providing basic com. niunication facUitiies to all the villages in Maharashtra;

(b) whether technology developed by C-DOT has been helpful in pro ding cheaper communication faci 1 es in rural areas of the State;

(c) if s'o, the details thereof, and

' (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNT CATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Out of 40023 villages in Iviaharashtria, 27420 village' have akeady been provided with telecom facility. The remaining villages are planned to be provided with, basic communjication fac ties during the IXth Plan-

(b) to (d) Technology developer. by C—DOT comprising of 128 to 1400 line exchanges has been found to be very suitable for modernising the telecom facilities in rural areas of the coutry C-DOT exohanges up to 256 liuas do not require Air Condivioned environment.

Multiple providers in internet services

2350. DR. Y. LAKSHMl PRASAD. Wm the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether representations have oeen received for ending the rr.on-opoly of the Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ijmited of the Department of Tele. communications in Intet access rnd services to permit multiple providers for more competitive service;

(b) if so, the main points made by the representationists and the actioii taken thereon; and

(c) the comparative position ob tpining in countries like Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, Ktorea, etc in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNI. CATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Come representations have been loeeived seeking permission/licence to operate Internet Service Provider as also proposing to end monopoly of Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. Pro-ptsrsl regarding opening of Internet service provision by Indian regis-tererl companies is under consideration of the Governer.